

July 14, 1999

1712 '99 JUL 19 A11:52

Mr. William Hubbard  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville MD 20852

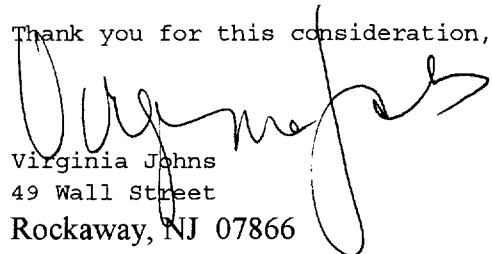
Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,  
Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am more than extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food. The thought of food being made available for mass consumption without any indication whatsoever of this form of treatment terrifies me. Besides violating basic disclosure courtesy as far as a food processing system that can produce so many side effects. Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale. Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not adequate.

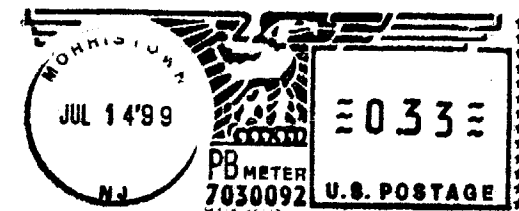
I, as a consumer, have the right to know, how the food I purchase has been processed. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Thank you for this consideration,

  
Virginia Johns  
49 Wall Street  
Rockaway, NJ 07866

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